

## **2009 ART COMPETITION GUIDELINES**

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- The competition is open to high school students only.
- Students must provide a written explanation about their entry in order to help the judges understand the students' thoughts and purpose in creating the particular art piece. The explanation (no longer than one page) should provide information that the student would want the judge to consider about his or her piece during the evaluation process.
- In order to allow an artwork to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are enforced:
  - All artwork must be framed to the appropriate framing guidelines (see framing guidelines)
  - Artwork must conform to the restrictions:
    - Piece must be two-dimensional.
    - Each piece can be **no larger** than 30"x 30" x 4" (30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 4 inches deep) including the frame. Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 pounds. (change from previous years)
    - Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry which has been reproduced from an existing photo (not the student's own), painting, graphic, advertisement, or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and **will not** be accepted.
- Artwork will hang in the Capitol for **the entire year** of the exhibition and **cannot** be returned to students earlier. Students, therefore, should submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.
- Artwork categories are as follows:
  - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
  - Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers
  - Collage: must be two dimensional
  - Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
  - Mixed media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, etc.
  - Computer generated art
  - Photography
- A **TYPED** copy of the Student Release Form, signed by both the teacher and the student, must be attached to the artwork to certify the originality of the piece.

## **SUITABILITY GUIDELINES**

- The final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the 2009 Congressional Art Competition exhibition in the Capitol will be made by panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission.
- In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portion not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit.

## **FRAMING GUIDELINES**

- **Please note that participating entries do not have to be framed for the March 28 ceremony. However, the First Place Winner WILL BE responsible for following these framing guidelines and submitting their framed artwork before April 20, 2009.**
- **All artwork must be framed.** Frames should be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. Metal frames are recommended. No “snap on” frames with glass are to be used.
- All artwork must be protected by a Plexiglas or glass. Plexiglas is preferred. If glass is used, cover the entire surface completely with masking tape prior to shipping.
- All works, **including frame**, should be **no larger** than 30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, and 15 pounds in weight. *This includes the outside dimensions of the frame.* Due to wide participation of Member offices, framed work larger than the specified dimensions will be turned away.
- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.
- Use sturdy picture hangers on the back of the frame. Two sturdy eye hooks should be attached at the right and the left sides of the back of the work for hanging in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. Do not put wire between the hooks for hanging; these will be added when the artwork is hung in the Capitol.
- Do not attach labels, ribbon, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the back side which side is up with arrows.
- As directed by the House Oversight and Standards of Official Conduct Committees, *each district winner is responsible for framing his or her own entry.* Any hardship cases should be assisted at the district level; works can no longer be framed by the Architect of the Capitol.
- A **typed** copy of the Student Information & Release Form **must be** attached to the back of the artwork.